

he answered, Did you not insist that I should reveal the secret of my passion for you to Cælia ? and was not that injunction enforced by the cruel menace of seeing me no more, in case of a refusal ?

I know not, Sir, resumed she, blushing between surprise and shame, whether I might express myself more properly on that occasion, but certainly there was nothing so very difficult in acquainting an aunt with the sentiments you feel for her niece,—provided, she continued, with some severity of manner, they are of a nature you are not ashamed to own.

After some moments of a well-counterfeited disturbance of mind, he pursued, Believe me, dear Caroline, I should not have waited for your commands to discover to your aunt all that I felt for your dear self, had not that aunt given me too plain, too long, and too continued, proofs that she thinks more favourably of me than I ever wished she should.

How ! said Caroline, astonished beyond measure, can such a thing be possible ? Then, pausing, and reflecting on many circumstances she had observed in the conduct of her aunt with regard both to other gentlemen and Lothario, she hesitated but very little before she was convinced that what he had alleged was both probable and true.

To say the truth, Cælia was not only one of the greatest coquets of the time ; vain, and proud of her person, which at the age of six and thirty possessed a maturity of attraction that, in many eyes, far surpassed the charms of younger beauties who appeared in the same circles, yet extravagantly envious, and malicious against those charms, when she saw they were preferred to her own ; but Cælia was also a woman who indul-